

New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food*

Immediate Release

Contact: Gail McWilliam Jellie
Tel. 271-3788

Fresh, New Hampshire Spinach OK to Eat

Yesterday the Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) revised its advisory against consuming “all” fresh spinach to a more specific advisory against consuming fresh spinach grown in three California counties. The advisory is in regards to outbreaks of E. coli O157:H7 found in 25 states since September 14th. No illnesses have been reported in New Hampshire.

According to the latest FDA advisory posted Tuesday, “FDA has determined that the spinach implicated in the outbreak was grown in three counties: Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara in California. Spinach grown in the rest of the United States has not been implicated in the current E. coli O157:H7 outbreak. The public can be confident that spinach grown in the non-implicated areas can be consumed.”

FDA also said, “Consumers are advised not to purchase or consume fresh spinach if they cannot verify that it was grown in areas other than the three California counties implicated in the outbreak. Other produce grown in these counties is not implicated in this outbreak. Processed spinach (e.g., frozen and canned spinach) is also not implicated in this outbreak.”

Fresh spinach grown in New Hampshire is not implicated in the outbreak and is safe to consume.

FDA continues to work closely with the CDC and state and local agencies to determine the cause and scope of the E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in spinach. Please check www.fda.gov for updates.

###